



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 26, 2007

Jennifer Filippone, Health Care Systems, 509-7590

House Bill 6109 - An Act Reducing License Renewal Fees for Retired Dentists

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 6109.

This bill proposes to amend Section 19a-88 of the general statutes to allow a retired dentist to renew his or her license to practice dentistry for a fee equal to ten percent of the renewal fee paid by a dentist in active practice. The current renewal fee for all dentists is \$450.00. The reduced fee would be \$45.00.

Pursuant to Section 20-113b, individuals who practice dentistry for no fee for at least one hundred hours per year at a public health facility and who do not otherwise engage in the practice of dentistry are eligible to renew their license at no cost. This provision was enacted in 2005. To date, no dentists have applied for renewal under this provision.

This proposal does not define the term "retired." For example, the proposal does not address whether "retired" dentist must refrain from the practice of dentistry or whether the licensee can provide voluntary services. Additionally, the proposal does not include provisions for returning a retired license to a full, active license to practice. Should this proposal move forward, the Department requests the Committee to consider including language similar to that adopted for retired nurses pursuant to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Sections 19a-88-1 through 19a-88-4. The Department would be happy to work with the Committee on language to address these issues.

Finally, implementation of this proposal may result in a loss of general fund revenue. Since the Department does not currently maintain information concerning the number of retired dentists who maintain licensure in Connecticut, the revenue loss is difficult to predict. If five percent of currently licensed dentists are retired, the annual loss to the general fund would be approximately \$60,750.00.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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